

The Topeka State Journal.

10 CENTS A WEEK.

TOPEKA, KANSAS, SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 15, 1894.

TWENTY-SECOND YEAR.

OWENS AHEAD.

Indications That the Contest Will be Close.

In the Ashland District Primaries Today.

OWENS IS LEADING

In Some of Breckinridge's Strongholds.

Women at Home Praying For Breckinridge's Defeat.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Sept. 15.—The primary Democratic election in this congressional district, which ends today, has been one of the bitterest political contests in American history. For months the contest has waged. Every hamlet, every rostrum and pulpit, every hill and dale in the district has resounded with charges and counter charges, with appeals for sympathy and appeals for retribution.

W. C. Owens, considered the man most likely to defeat Breckinridge in the Ashland district, is a native of Scott county, Kentucky, one of the wealthiest in the blue grass region and has lived there all his life. He is 44 years old and unmarried. He is a graduate of the Columbia law school of the class of 1872.

Two years later he began his political career in a successful race for county attorney of Scott county. He resigned this office and was sent to the legislature for five consecutive terms. He was one of the most influential members of the house and was speaker at the session of 1891-92.

He was a Democratic elector for his district in 1889 and a delegate from the state at large to the national Democratic convention at Chicago in 1892, being chosen temporary chairman of that body. He first ran for congress against Joseph C. Blackburn in 1885, and has for some years been looked upon as the next in line whenever Breckinridge should be retired.

It is claimed by some Owens men that even Settle does not hope to be nominated, but expects to divide the opposition to Breckinridge's nomination and so bring about the latter's success. Of course this is indignantly denied by Mr. Settle and his friends.

Opening of the Polls.

The polls opened at 7 a. m. for the most hotly contested primary election ever known in this congressional district, or in any other Kentucky district, if not in the country. The candidates for the Democratic nomination are W. C. Owens of Georgetown, and Evan Settle of Owensboro, who have been speaking at all points in the district for months. During the past few weeks the contest has been very bitter and within the past forty-eight hours charges have been made by candidates against their opponents which many predict will yet result in a resort to the courts, or bloodshed and some one killed.

The primary election will name the nominee, but it is feared that it will not settle some other issues. Besides the feeling between contestants, life-long friends and neighbors are at swords point.

Wives and mothers and others are apprehensive that those they love may become involved in serious conflicts before the polls close at 4 p. m. today. Some ladies are taking a more active part and are out electioneering against Breckinridge. Many are at the prayer meetings called for supplications during the election of the protection and honor of homes, etc., but most of the female supplicants are at home.

The ministers and churchmen are co-operating with the women in their canvass for "the promotion of honors."

Breckinridge's Organization.

While there have been all sorts of moral and other movements against Breckinridge, he and his friends have maintained a perfect organization throughout the district and they lined up like veteran politicians every where at the opening of the polls.

The federal officers, distillers, railroads and other powerful interests are with Breckinridge. All whom he has favored during his ten year's service in congress are fighting hard for him. Senators Lindsey at Frankfort and Blackburn at Versailles, both residents of the district, are quietly but earnestly against Breckinridge, but the ward and town politicians are with the congressman.

The district is composed of Bourbon, Fayette, Franklin, Henry, Oldham, Owen, Scott and Woodford counties.

As the returns from many voting places must be carried long distances on horseback to telegraph offices, if the result is close it is not likely that the successful nominee will be known before Monday. The headquarters of Breckinridge and Owens are both here. Settle's headquarters are at Owensboro. As the Breckinridge people have the more perfect organization as well as the machine, they propose not to sleep until they know the result. It is charged that they have used the party machinery in the canvass and will do so to the last.

The ruling of the district committee in challenging those expected of not supporting the nominee is keeping many Democrats from the polls, and it is also causing bad blood. The fact that many bets have been made on both sides is also having a tendency to intensify the bitterness.

Up to noon today there has been intense suppressed excitement, but general good order here. In some precincts challenges have been numerous but few votes have been refused. The most notable exception was Prof. A. V. Gordon of Allegan Academy, a confederate soldier, whose intention to support the nominee was challenged and who re-

fused to pledge himself to support Breckinridge. His vote was refused and the incident created considerable excitement.

ASKING FOR DIVINE GUIDANCE.

The Presbyterian Church at Lexington Packed With Women Praying.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Sept. 15.—The contrast between the exciting scenes of last night and the quiet of today is remarkable. There are unusual crowds on the streets and in public places, but the excitement seems to be suppressed.

A large vote is being polled, but it is absolutely impossible to make an estimate on the result. Breckinridge and Owens forces have all the public and private conveyances in use, taking voters to the polls. The Settle men seem to lack in practical working order.

Challenging at the polls is exceptionally light and few votes have been rejected. Prayer meetings were held here at Morrison chapel at noon, attended by over 1,500, mostly ladies. Prayers were offered by Elder J. J. W. McFarley, Rev. E. H. Ward, Rev. W. F. V. Bartlett and Prof. J. R. Jones, all of whom asked for divine guidance in today's election, without making any personal applications, or indicating any candidates. Dr. Bartlett has been regarded as conservative, or mildly favoring Breckinridge, while others have been outspoken in condemnation of the Ashland district congressman.

LATEST BULLETINS.

From Principal Points in the Ashland District This Afternoon.

LOUISVILLE, Sept. 15.—The following telegrams have been received here up to 2 o'clock:

Owensboro—Settle is receiving 90 per cent of the vote here. The election is passing off quietly. The Settle men claim that he will carry the county by more than 2,000 votes.

La Grange—The race here seems to be between Settle and Breckinridge. Impossible to estimate the result, but Settle's friends are satisfied and claim he is doing well.

Emmence—A heavy vote is being polled, and politicians say that more Breckinridge men have entered the booths than Owens and Settle men combined. The election is progressing quietly and peacefully.

Georgetown, Ky.—This county and city will give Owens a majority of 1,800. Owens' managers claim that everything is going his way.

Frankfort, Ky. (noon).—The following is the vote in Frankfort at noon as best estimated: Of 406 votes cast, Breckinridge has 133; Owens 477, and Settle 68. A message from Deane Breckinridge at 11 a. m. states that his father will carry Lexington by from two or three to one over Owens.

Lexington, Sept. 15.—12:30 p. m.—Both Owens and Breckinridge leaders claim the victory. Settle is out of it, and is so regarded by most everybody. Outside of Oldham, Henry and Owens counties he will cut no figure.

Lexington, Ky.—At 2:30 p. m. indications are that Breckinridge will carry the city by several hundred, owing to superior organization of his ward workers. In the county Owens is believed to be ahead.

No definite figures can be given at this hour.

AN OPEN LETTER.

Issued by the Breckinridgeites, Telling Voters to Ignore the Injunction.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Sept. 15.—A special to the Republic from Lexington, Ky., says: At midnight the Breckinridge organization gave out an open letter to the Democratic voters of the district, in which they are to ignore Judge Cantrell's injunction, restraining the judges of election from swearing voters tomorrow by making them pledge themselves to support the nominee, and to swear men who are not voting as to the doubtful voters' qualifications.

STABBING NEAR VERSAILLES.

A Pitched Battle Between Breckinridge and Owens Men.

VERSAILLES, Ky., Sept. 15.—Out in the Paywood neighborhood five miles northeast of here, this morning there was a pitched battle between eighteen or twenty Breckinridge and Owens men, the result of a discussion on the outlook, during which G. W. Gillespie, a Breckinridge man, was stabbed twice just above the heart and in the back, dangerously wounding him.

It was impossible to find out who did the cutting, every one of the party becoming as mum as an oyster. The Owens and Settle men are coming to Versailles to vote for Bill Breckinridge if it kills him. The physician who dressed his wounds says that he will die if he persists in carrying out his declaration.

AT FRANKFORT.

The Voting Going On Quietly at That Place.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Sept. 15.—The election is proceeding quietly. The Breckinridge men are not taking advantage of the pledging of voters, according to the rule adopted by the district committee last Saturday before Judge Cantrell's injunction restraining them from so doing. It is thought this will prevent all the trouble heretofore anticipated.

Owens Ahead.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Sept. 15.—Noon.—Estimate of voting in this city up to this hour: Owens 550; Breckinridge 51; Settle 22.

At 11 o'clock Breckinridge was running ahead in Woodford county and reported as carrying Lexington by two to one over Owens.

At Paris, Ky.

PARIS, Ky., Sept. 15.—Noon.—Owens is getting a majority in Bourbon county which was conceded to be Breckinridge's strong hold. Specials from other places indicate that Owens is running ahead more than expected.

A HOT RACE.

The Free for All Pace at the Fair Grounds for Next Week.

The fastest racing ever had on our track will surely be seen in the free-for-all pace. The sure starters are Fred K., 2:11; Dandy O., 2:11; Belle Mahone, 2:10; Laura T., 2:14; Dr. J., 2:13; Panay Blossom, 2:12; Rose Water 2:12; and Wheeler F., 2:12.

A. R. U. MEN ANGRY.

Denounce Populist Officials for Using Pullman Passes.

R. J. Sloat Speaks Bitterly of the Exposure.

JUDGE DOSTER TALKS

Says the Pass System is All Wrong.

Although He Used a Pass When on the Bench.

The expose published in yesterday's JOURNAL regarding the acceptance and use of railway and Pullman passes by members of the state board of railway commissioners, seems to have stirred up a great deal of consternation and feeling against the officials referred to—among the leaders of the local A. R. U.

President R. J. Sloat and Secretary Harry Chapman were particularly deplained in their expressions of contempt for the practice and all who are party to it.

"Pshaw," said Mr. Sloat, "there is no use in denying that if a man will accept a pass in the first place he will ride on it. It's human nature. The way to stop it is to return the passes."

"Any man who will accept a pass from a railroad or the Pullman company allows himself to be bribed. It is nothing else and I have no use for any man who does it no matter what party he belongs to. When a railroad gives a man a pass it says to him, 'Here I have done you a favor, you know what this is for. Now be easy on me and you can bet the pass holder feels as though he ought to be.'"

"I am down on all that sort of thing. No man can work for the good of the laboring classes honestly and hold a railroad pass, and certainly not when holding a Pullman pass, either trip or annual."

"This talk about saving the state money by the state officials accepting and using passes is the worst sort of rot. If any man says that he doesn't charge mileage where he is allowed even if he does use his pass, he is assuredly a liar. The state doesn't procure the passes and the companies don't give passes to the officials because they love the state."

"I believe that three-fourths of the members of the legislature hold passes of all kinds, and it is not only not right but dishonest."

"I should like to have a railroad send me a pass in case I should be elected. I would have copies of the pass printed in every paper in the state that would print it and give the company a roast that would last a lifetime."

"The railroads are making a double play now. They are pretending to fight the Populists, but doesn't it show that they are trying to stand in as much as they can? Why, if the Populists should go in again with a big majority this year, the railroads would flip right over and be the Populists' best friends."

Harry Chapman was no less bitter in his expressions and resorted to some rather strong language against the pass holders that are in the employ of the people.

"If they are honest in what they say about not believing the pass system right, why in—don't they send back their passes. That's a great way to sympathize with the workmen, isn't it? Of course the companies expect legislation to blank their passes, and they get it to some extent too. That's a likely story of Mr. Bidle's about using a Pullman pass on his wife's account. We don't want that sort of men in office if we can help it."

Other leading A. R. U. men talk the same way.

Judge Frank Doster, the man who is loved, respected and obeyed by all Populists, has some views of his own on pass taking and pass using by judges.

A STATE JOURNAL reporter who talked with Judge Doster about this matter asked: "Judge Doster did you ride on a pass when you were on the bench in the Twenty-fifth state district?"

"Yes, I did ride on a pass when I was district judge. All judges ride on passes and I don't believe these judges who say they have passes and don't ride on them. Under the recent agitation and newspaper criticism some of them may have sent their passes back, but if they have, it has been simply to evade the wrath of the public."

"What do you think about the pass business in general, judge?"

"I think it all wrong, and the system should be abolished by legislation, which would make it a crime punishable by forfeiture of office for any public official to accept a railroad pass."

"Do you think the next legislature will consider this matter?"

"If the next legislature is Populist it surely will, but if it is Republican, it won't. The Republican party would go to pieces without free transportation. They could not run this campaign without passes. Without a doubt J. Leland has a block of passes already signed up in blank in his possession. That letter of his in the Bann matter proves that."

"I believe the pass business is all wrong, and it can only be remedied by legislation."

When Judge Doster said he don't believe these judges who say they have passes and don't use them, he gave Associate Justice Allen a slap, as he is the only judge who says he don't use the passes he has in his possession.

A well known Santa Fe official, who issues as many passes as any other officer of the road, in speaking of the pass business by public officials, said: "When Senator John Martin says he don't ride on a Pullman pass and makes the assertion that he pays out \$26 in cash to the Pullman company for sleeper and dining room accommodations every time he goes to Washington he makes a statement which is hard for railroad men to believe, and I don't believe it. If he

does pay out the cash he gets it back in some other way, for you can't make me believe that a man with the influence of a United States senator will be allowed to meet the expenses of Pullman accommodation out of his own pocket."

CRISP IS SORRY.

For the Votes Cast Against Silver by Democrats in the House.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Sept. 15.—Speaker Crisp, of the house of representatives, addressed one of the largest gatherings that has ever listened to a speech in this country. He reviewed the financial legislation of congress, the votes on the silver question, which personally were a disappointment to him, as he always believed in the free and unlimited coinage of both metals. He explained the burdens of the McKinley law and the benefits of the senate bill, explaining its reductions on the necessities of life and giving object lessons with samples of wooden clothes.

The speaker read from the record a list of bills introduced by Populist members to print and issue money for visionary schemes and suggested that they seek to have passed a law making every man's duty a legal tender for public and private debts.

In conclusion Mr. Crisp said: "I have told you what the Democratic party done I have shown that we have made a long stride in the direction of tariff reform. I have shown you that we have made taxable all the money of the people. I have shown you that we have manifested an undying enmity to all trusts opposed to the people. Upon this evidence we build our house and upon it we go to the people. For them to have fought the good fight, to them we have kept faith and of them we have no fear."

THE CRIMINAL DOCKET.

Bob Campbell Guilty on Five Counts.—Another Burglary Case.

Bob Campbell will spend a large part of the season of 1894-95 in the Shawnee county jail. He is the colored young man who ran a "club," with Ben Jordan on West Railroad street in North Topeka. There were seven different sales charged against him, and the jury after being out one hour, returned a verdict of guilty on five counts.

Campbell has not been sentenced but the customary penalty in such cases is 30 days and \$100 fine on each count. Campbell's sentence will probably be \$500 and 180 days, and costs. Estimating the costs in the case to be \$50, there is a total of 700 days or two years minus one month, to be served unless Campbell's friends come liberally to his assistance. Even then Campbell will be in jail when the flowers begin to bloom.

Lucinda Thompson Acquitted.

The jury in the case of Dr. Lucinda Thompson, charged with practicing medicine illegally, today found a verdict of not guilty. The jury decided that she had a right to exert her healing powers among her acquaintances so long as she made no false representations regarding her medical training, and used only patent medicines with directions on the bottle. Ed McKeever who defended Mrs. Thompson, laid special emphasis on the fact that if she could, by going outside her profession as a nurse, do good to her friends, it was not only her right but her duty.

Another Burglary Case.

Fred Tulip, who is charged with having burglarized Ralph Squires' drugstore at 1001 Topeka avenue, is on trial today. "Con" Ryan was to have been tried for being Tulip's accomplice, but he had prior to this case been found guilty of burglarizing Culver & Bailey's hardware store, so this case against him will not be tried at present. They are all graduates of the notorious "Fourth street gang."

Tulip appeared in court with a white necktie and a white vest. The evidence against Tulip is wholly circumstantial. He tried to sell at a Kansas avenue restaurant the thirty boxes of cigars which were taken from Squires.

"QUIDA'S" WORDS BITTER.

The Noted Novelist Accuses Premier of Capitalist Cruelty.

LONDON, Sept. 15.—"Quida" (Louis De la Ramée), the well-known novelist, has written a long letter to Truth, making a virulent attack upon Signor Crispi, the Italian prime minister, for his treatment of political prisoners, whom "Quida" calls his unhappy victims.

The letter deals chiefly with the case of Giuseppe Delfino, who represented the Second Catania district in the chamber of deputies, and who was recently sentenced to a long term of imprisonment for the part he took in the socialist troubles in Sicily. "Quida" says this prisoner is the one Signor Crispi most dreads, and, therefore, persecutes them.

He is confined in a cell in the fortress at Volterra. He is doomed to three years' solitary confinement, after which he will have to serve, "Quida" says, a score of years at hard labor, working in total silence. The government, the writer contends, calculates that this solitary confinement will drive him mad.

M. E. LOWE RESTRAINED.

An Injunction in the Circuit Court Prevents His Doing Scavenger Work.

Judge J. B. Johnson, of the Shawnee county circuit court, this morning granted a temporary injunction restraining scavenger M. E. Lowe and George Gatou from burying, cremating, or otherwise disposing of dead animals in or about the city of Topeka. The permanent injunction will be argued next Wednesday.

The injunction was asked for by R. T. Stewart, who is one of Mayor Harrison's legally appointed official city scavengers, and confirmed by the city council.

It is doubtful if the case against M. E. Lowe in the police court will be prosecuted, as Judge Ensminger is Lowe's attorney in his fight against the city, and the hopes of the health board of getting satisfaction there are not high.

New York Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Sept. 15.—The weekly bank statement shows the following changes: Reserve, decrease \$1,980,575; loans, increase \$3,583,700; specie, increase \$370,400; legal tenders, increase \$1,846,400; deposits, increase \$2,834,300; circulation, increase \$208,100. The banks now hold \$59,933,700 in excess of the requirements of the 25 per cent rule.

JESSE HARPER.

The Nestor of All the "Reformers" in Town.

The Colonel Insists He Won't Be Interviewed,

BUT LED TO YIELD

To a "Journal" Reporter Who Knows His Business.

Says Some Interesting Things About Abraham Lincoln.

Col. Jesse Harper, of Danville, Ill., came to town today, firmly determined that he would not be interviewed by any newspaper reporter. Col. Harper is opposed to newspapers, particularly those that carry on a large enough business to be called plutocrats.

A Journal reporter saw Col. Harper at the Populist headquarters on Eighth street today, and asked him to give his views on political questions for publication.

"No, I never permit anything of the kind," said he. "When I returned from Maine I stopped at Boston, and walked up to the Bunker Hill monument, where my grandfather is buried; that monument can never go to pieces while he is there. Well, I gazed at that monument with a sort of veneration, and then started back to the hotel, and a Globe man met me and asked if my name was Col. Harper. I told him that that was my name, but that I wasn't the man he wanted to see. 'Haven't you been in Maine?' he asked. 'Why, I have been in Maine,' I replied."

"He then took a newspaper picture of me from his pocket and handed it to me and asked if it was not a picture of me. 'Why, no, I never saw that man,' I said. 'You are surely mistaken in the man,' then the Herald man came up and said 'Why, how do you do Col. Harper?' I said, 'That is my name, but you must be mistaken in the man. I am not the Col. Harper you want to see.' I bluffed them out on the spot."

The STATE JOURNAL man laughed judiciously.

"Do you think the Populists will cut much figure in Illinois this year?" asked the reporter.

"Well, you can't tell much about it. There is a fight in Chicago, and one of the strongest Republicans, General Mann, is off and has organized a new party, which is really the A. P. A., and no one but admits that they will secure at least 40,000 votes. You can't tell what effect this will have on the result. Chicago has sixty-six representatives and Peoria, the next big town, has seventeen, and they have always acted together when it comes to voting whether they were Republicans or Democrats, and it generally was for the most money, but in my opinion this year their plans will be upset somewhat. I believe that the Populists will succeed in electing three congressmen in Chicago. As far as the country is concerned there will probably be a little change, but 40,000 votes would put an entirely new face on things in Illinois."

"Colonel Harper, what do you think of the free silver agitation?"

"Why, do you know," he said, "that very few Democrats or Republicans have any opinion about it, and I don't care to vote whether they were Republicans or Democrats, and it generally was for the most money, but in my opinion this year their plans will be upset somewhat. I believe that the Populists will succeed in electing three congressmen in Chicago. As far as the country is concerned there will probably be a little change, but 40,000 votes would put an entirely new face on things in Illinois."

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"You were at the trial of the friend of Lincoln. What would be his politics, do you suppose, if he were alive now?" asked the reporter.

"No, I do not say that I was his friend. It is true we used to tear around together and all that, and I knew a great deal about him. If he were alive now he would be a Populist. Don't you remember when all those bishops and preachers went to him and asked him not to issue the emancipation proclamation. He listened to them respectfully, and then told them he was glad that they had come. He said, 'I intend to do right as God gives me the light. I will issue the proclamation because I hate slavery, but I see in the future threatening this people a slavery with which this would sink into insignificance.' That is what he said then, but the Democrats and Republicans don't talk about that now."

Colonel Harper was warming up. He talked a minute or two about the deplorable condition of the country, but when asked for his opinion of the probable result of the industrial unrest, he said: "I don't want to say what I think, or the Republican newspapers would all come out and say I favor war. When my old daddy predicted bloodshed as the result of slavery, he was classed with Garrison and the cranks favoring war, and he did not dare deny it."

"They wouldn't keep the Republican and Democratic platforms in hell," he continued. "Hell abhors a vacuum. They won't have an empty place there, and as those platforms are nothing, they can't stay there. But the first thing I know I will be giving away my speech. Good bye."

Col. Harper is a politician of the old school. It was he who brought out Lincoln as a candidate for the presidency and he likes to talk about Lincoln. He has just returned from the campaign in Maine where he spoke for the Populists. He speaks at a Populist meeting at Oaage City tonight and will remain in the state twenty days, during which he will make thirty speeches. He will speak in Topeka, September 29th.

Tom L. Johnson Renominated.

CLEVELAND, Sept. 15.—Congressman Tom L. Johnson was renominated for congress today by the 21st district (Cleveland) Democratic convention.

THE STATE JOURNAL'S WANT AND MISCELLANEOUS columns reach each working day in the week more than twice as many Topeka people as can be reached through any other paper. This is a fact.

FRENCH VILENESS.

The Latest Vulgarity Placed on the Boards at Paris.

LONDON, Sept. 15.—For downright suggestion one must go to Paris where the talk of the town is "La Revue Dshabile" at the Cafe Les Ambassadeurs, a "skit" on which many London entertainment caterers have cast longing eyes. The scene represents a lady's bedroom and the fair occupant when the curtain rises, is still in bed. After her maid has brought the chocolate, she rises appearing in a short pale blue silk chemise, cut open at the sides and a pair of black silk stockings with dainty colored garters.

She takes up her corsets and prepares to put them on when she is prevented by the arrival of the hair dresser. A second attempt to dress is interrupted by a visitor who obtains admission by seating in a check as a visiting card; the amount being insufficient, he takes the limit with a second check and finally places his whole fortune at the lady's disposal.

With a touch of prudishness after this recklessness he installs himself as master of the house. The Americans of Paris are frequenting the show and because of not understanding French probably do not find it naughty, nor out of keeping with French life as pictured by the French themselves.

A NEW BANDIT KING.

Bill Cook Now at the Head of the Old Dalton Gang.

FR. SMITH, Ark., Sept. 15.—United States Deputy Marshal W. C. Smith has just returned from a trip that few men can make and get back alive. He has just come back from the rendezvous of the Bill Cook-Dalton gang, which was organized by the union of the Bill Cook gang and the remnants of the gang of the now dead Bill Dalton. Smith went there alone, to try to induce Bill Cook, who formerly worked as a member of Smith's posse, to abandon his life of outlawry. Cook assured him, however, that he proposed to go ahead in his career, as it was now too late to turn back.

There were thirteen men in the gang, and they are now as strong as Bill Dalton's old band ever was. Deputy Marshal Smith, who has the reputation of being one of the bravest of men in the service of the United States marshal here, found the whereabouts of the band in rather a peculiar manner.

He learned that one of the band had a sweetheart at Sapulpa, I. T., and ten days ago Smith went there to see her. After considerable persuasion he convinced her that he was alone, and prevailed upon her to pilot him to the camp of the bandits.

One week ago Wednesday they left Sapulpa and traveled around several days rather aimlessly, and on Sunday morning reached the camp. This is the first authentic news of the movements of the band since the Redford, I. T., express robbery.

BIG FIRE AT SCRANTON, PA.

Worst Visitation of the Kind in the City's History.

SCRANTON, Pa., Sept. 15.—The most extensive fire in point of loss that ever visited this city broke out today in the business portion of the city.

When the flames were brought under control the loss had reached at a conservative \$250,000. For a time it was thought that the business portion of the city would be destroyed. The fire was discovered in the basement of Matthews Bros' wholesale drug house.

An alarm was sent in and when the four companies of the fire department arrived the building was a mass of flames and had spread to 316 Lackawanna street, occupied principally by Gross & Foster, one of the largest dry goods stores in the city.

Another alarm brought six more companies to the scene. The fire continued to spread and at 8 o'clock a general alarm brought the entire fire department of the city into service.

When the flames were under control Nos. 316, 318 and 320 Lackawanna avenue were completely destroyed. Nos. 320, 322 and 324 were gutted, and No. 314 badly damaged. At 8 o'clock three firemen fell through the roof of No. 316. Two landed on the first floor and one went through to the basement. They were extricated by ropes a few seconds before the walls collapsed.

BUFFALO JONES CONFIDENT